In Appomattox

Wheat yield big concern

By JIM SMITH

Wheat yields are a major concern. They are a concern from two standpoints: 1. County yields have not kept pace with state yields; 2. State yields are well behind research yields.

In the late '50's and early '60's Appomattox County was consistantly similar or slightly above state yields. In the late '60's and early '70's county yields were significantly higher than state yields. In more recent years county yields have not even equalled state yields.

If wheat is worth $4.00 a bushel, Appomattox farmers are receiving $12.80 per bushel less than the avearge wheat producer in Virginia. In 1980 Appomattox farmers harvested 2100 acres; therefore, there was a loss of more than $26,000.

A recent study shows that in Virginia there is a 16 year lag in farm yields and Virginia research yields. Since 1950 there has been a consistant 11 bushel difference on an annual basis between research yields and farm yields.

Research yields are the average of all varieties tested at all locations in Virginia. Farm yields are yields reported by the Crop Reporting Service. For example, farm yields in 1974 equalled what research yields were in 1958. This suggests a sixteen year lag in adaption of research information.

What can be done to increase wheat yields?

1. Keep up-to-date on varieties--the six recommended wheat varieties averaged 56.7 bushels in 1980 research tests, two of the six varieties averaged 60+ bushels per acre last year.

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by JAMES A. SMITH
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2. Maintain proper soil pH and apply fertilizer at recommended level.
3. Control insects.
4. Seed during recommended time period--October 1 to November 1.
5. Sow at recommended rate--1 to 1½ bushels per acre.

Cutworms can sometimes be a problem in vegetable gardens. A cardboard collar around the transplant can frequently prevent injury. An effective chemical control is to water the transplants with a Diazinon solution--add one teaspoon 25% Diazinon EC to a gallon of water.

* * *

Final 1980 - 81 sales data is in for major tobacco crops. Fire Cured sold 3.8 million pounds for $127.38 per 100 pounds. Marketing was down 32 percent from the 1979-80 marketing year, while prices were up 19%. In 1979-80 producers sold 5.6 million pounds for $107.10 per 100 pound.

Sun Cure growers sold 388 thousand pounds for $127.07 a hundred pounds. The crop was 31% less than a year earlier, while prices were up 40%. There were 564 thousand pounds sold in 1979-80 for $90.80 a hundred.

Burley marketing was up 35% from 15.8 million pounds in 1979-80 to 21.3 pounds in 1980-81. Prices were up 15%, from $143.57 to $165.63.

* * *

Year	County	State
1975	27.0	31.0
1976	N/A	N/A
1977	27.0	31.0
1978	36.0	35.0
1979	30.0	35.0
1980	33.0	37.0
5 yr. ave	30.6	33.8
Difference 3.2 bu.		

Knapp addresses Ruritans

Karen Knapp, administrative assistant in public relations with Westvaco was guest speaker recently at the Oakville Ruritan Club meeting. Her subject was Conservation. The Ultimate Use of Wood and Wood By-products, and Conservation of Energy.

Included in the program for the evening was a slide presentation concerning the many ways a community can conserve energy.

Ms. Knapp also discussed Tree Farms and how Westvaco is helping local farmers and landowners.

In the interest of conserving energy, the Oakville Ruritan Club urges you to come out to the Oakville Ruritan Flea Market on May 9 beginning at 8 a.m.

Bollinger attends courses

Cindy Y. Bollinger of The Carpet House, Inc., Appomattox, recently attended two courses on selling and interior decoration conducted by Armstrong World Industries in Bethesda, Md.

The courses are offered to employees of stores participating in the Armstrong Floor Fashion Center program whose purpose is to assist retail establishments in serving consumers.

The professional selling skills seminar and the decorating course were conducted over a three-day period.

There are more than 1,650 Armstrong Floor Fashion Center stores from coast to coast. They are committed to maintaining high standards of store appearance, complete merchandise selections and trained sales personnel, plus offer guarantees for material and installation.

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Appomattox RADIO, TV & APPLIANCE Appomattox, Va.

ASCS Today

Interest rates rise

By TOM CONRAD

Interest Rates Increased For 1981-Crop, Storage Facility and Dryer Loans - Increases in loan rates to 14½ percent for 1981-crop loans and farm storage facility and dryer loans, and other changes in the facility loan program were announced recently.

The increase affects all facility and dryer loans approved beginning April 1 and 1981-crop commodity loans. Beginning next October, the interest rate on 1981 crop and facility loans made after April 1 will carry a "floating" interest rate, subject to adiustment each October 1 and April 1.

Previously, CCC had charged 11½ percent on crop loans and 12½ percent on facility and dryer loans.

The new interest rate and the variable adjustment procedure will not apply to 1980 crop loans and facility and dryer loans already in effect.

Interest rates announced recently are based on the cost to CCC of borrowing money from the U. S. treasury. The change to a variable interest rate on outstanding loans will enable CCC to adjust rates in line with treasury borrowing costs.

Also, the following are changes in the farm storage facility and dryer loan program:

An increase in the loan down payments from 15 percent to 25 percent.

Storage needs will be based on one year's production instead of two years'.

All existing storage space will be considered in determining storage capacity. In the past, space already in use to store grain under the farmer-owned grain reserve was not counted in figuring storage needs.

The maximum term of new loans will be five years; existing loans are for eight years.

The maximum amount a farmer may borrow or have outstanding under the program is reduced from $100,000 to $50,000.

The higher interest rate and the actions for making facility and dryer loans announced recently are expected to result in a savings to the U.S. government of about $29 million for the balance of fiscal year 1981 and $145 million for fiscal year 1982.

CROP REPORTS - As a condition for program benefits, farmers need to report crops by the following dates:

Fall seeded for grain-oats, barley, rye, and wheat - June 1.

Flue-cured tobacco - June 14.

Fire, sun, Maryland tobacco - June 30.

Corn, grain sorghum and soybeans - June 30.

Tobacco history credit - June 15.

Accurate acreage reports make you eligible for disaster and deficiency payments on corn, barley, wheat and grain sorghum. No set-aside land is required.

Accurate reports on tobacco make you eligible for price support.

Come by the ASCS office at your earliest convenience to report.

* * *

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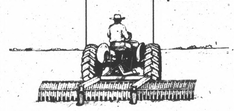

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Obituaries

Lewis Irvan Ayers

Lewis Irvan Ayers, 16, Center Cross, formerly of Appomattox, died.

He was born in Lynchburg, a son of William Allen Ayers, Appomattox, and Mrs. Ruby Mayberry Elbourn, Center Cross. He was a junior at Essex High School.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by a half sister, Janie Michelle Elbourn, Center Cross; his stepfather, Curtis Elbourn; his maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Mayberry, Spout Spring, and his paternal grandmother, Mrs. Alma Ayers, Appomattox.

Funeral services were conducted at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Robinson Funeral Home by the Revs. George Kriedel and David Grove. Burial was in Concord Cemtery.

Robinson Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Thomas S. Childress

Thomas Saunders Childress, 62, Route 1, Concord, died Sunday morning, April 12, in Lynchburg General Hospital after a long illness.

Born in Campbell County, he was a son of the late Volney Howard Childress and Elsie Reid Childress. He was a farmer and a member of Early's Chapel United Methodist Church.

He is survived by four brothers, Lt. Howard R. Childress, U.S.N. (Ret.) San Diego, Calif., V.C. (Sonny) Childress, Lynchburg, James E. Childress, Concord, and C.P.O. Marvin T. Childress, U.S.N. (Ret.), Norfolk; two sisters, Bessie C. Childress, Peru, Ind., and Gracie C. Anderson, Lynchburg.

Funeral services were conducted at 11 a.m. Tuesday in Early's Chapel United Methodist Church by the Revs. Stephen D. Parker and Roy E. Martin. Interment was in the church cemetery.

Whitten Park Avenue Chapel was in charge of arrangements.

Annie Farrar Puckett

SPOUT SPRING - Annie Farrar Puckett, 95, of Spout Spring died at 7:30 a.m. Monday, April 6, at her residence. She was the widow of the late Floyd Thomas Puckett.

Born in Appomattox County, she was a daughter of the late Thomas Farrar and Melissa Thomas Farrar. She was a member of Appomattox Courthouse Presbyterian Church.

She is survived by eight sons, Willie Puckett of Bedford, Herman Puckett of Spout Spring, Andrew Puckett of Newport Richey, Fla., Otis Puckett of Richmond, Curtis Puckett of Roanoke, Lacy Puckett of Spout Spring, Stuart Puckett of Lynchburg and Jimmy Lee Bradley of San Diego, Calif.; two daughters, Mrs. Odell Bradley of Roanoke and Mrs. Flora Mae Pierce of Spout Spring; 25 grandchildren; 43 great-grandchildren; and four great-great grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted Wednesday at 2 p.m. at Robinson Funeral Home, Appomattox, by the Rev. George Kreidel with burial in Liberty Cemetery.

Robinson Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Pate Torrence, Sr.

BEDFORD - Pate Torrence, Sr., 71, 612 Longwood Ave., died suddenly Saturday, April 11 at Bedford County Memorial Hospital.

He was born in Campbell County, a son of the late Charles McFarland Torrence and Anna Tweedy Torrence. He was a member of the Main Street United Methodist Church, the Lynchburg Elks Lodge, the Bedford Country Club and the Blue Ridge Chitterling Club. He was a retired insurance underwriter with 38 years of service to Home Beneficial Life Insurance Co.

He is survived by his wife, Clarice Bailey Torrence; two sons, P. Douglas Torrence, Laurel, Md., and Pate Torrence, Jr., Roanoke; a daughter, Mrs. Wendell B. (Patricia) Johnson, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; four brothers, John M. Torrence, Concord, Emmitt Torrence, Hampton, Richard Torrence, Lynchburg, and James Torrence, Madison Heights; five sisters, Mrs. J. P. Jones, Thomson, Ga., Mrs. A. R. Evans, Mrs. Clarence Long, and Miss Sarah Torrence, all of Lynchburg, and Mrs. Mayo Harlow, Bedford, and seven grandchildren.

Feral services were conducted at 11 a.m. Tuesday at the Carder Funeral Chapel with the Rev. Walter A. Whitehurst officiating. Graveside services were at 1 p.m. at Early's Chapel United Methodist Church Cemetery, Concord.

The family suggests that those wishing to make memorials consider the Bedford Lifesaving Crew or the Main Street United Methodist Church. Carder Funeral Chapel was in charge of arrangements.

Young Hearts to meet

The Young Hearts Club will meet at New Hope Baptist Church on April 22 at 10:30 a.m. Members please meet at Memorial United Methodist Church at 10 a.m.

Nature tour slated

The Appomattox Homemakers Club is planning a Nature Tour for Tuesday, April 21. All members are asked to meet at the Memorial United Church Parking lot at 10 a.m.; bring a sandwhich for lunch.

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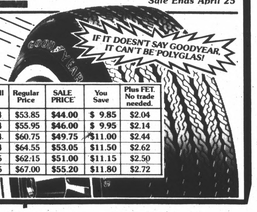

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G78-15	$62.15	$51.00	$11.15	$2.50
H78-15	$67.00	$55.20	$11.80	$2.72

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